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MILLEDGEVILLE, GA., SEPT. 29 (AP)--"I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY GARY IS DESERTING ME NOW WHEN I NEED HIM SO," SAID DARK-HAIRED MRS. BARBARA POWERS. "AFTER ALL, I DIDN'T DESERT HIM."

THE 28-YEAR-OLD WIFE OF FORMER U2 PILOT FRANCIS GARY POWERS MADE THE REMARK TO NEWSMEN YESTERDAY AFTER SHE FILED A COUNTER SUIT FOR DIVORCE. SHE ASKED ALIMONY BUT DID NOT SPECIFY THE AMOUNT.

POWERS, 33, SUED HER FOR DIVORCE ON AUG. 14, THAT WAS A LITTLE MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER HE WAS RELEASED FROM A SOVIET PRISON WHERE HE SERVED 21 MONTHS OF A 10-YEAR SENTENCE FOR SPYING.

IN THE COUNTER SUIT MRS. POWERS CHARGED THAT SINCE HIS RETURN TO THIS COUNTRY HER HUSBAND HAS "LOST HIS WHOLE SENSE OF VALUES AND DUTIES AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN TOWARD HIS WIFE, HIS COUNTRY AND TOWARD HIS FELLOW MAN AND IS OBSESSED WITH MATERIAL THINGS IN LIFE, ESPECIALLY MONEY."

SHE ALSO CHARGED THAT POWERS TOLD HER NUMEROUS TIMES SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON THAT HE "COULD NOT LOVE AND LIVE WITH A SICK WOMAN AS HIS WIFE." SHE SAID THAT SHE IS ILL AND HAS BEEN "UNABLE TO WORK TO SUPPORT HERSELF."

POWERS IS "CAPABLE OF EARNING AND DOES EARN MORE THAN \$1,500 A MONTH AND IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY," SHE SAID IN THE SUIT IN WHICH SHE ASKED FOR PERMANENT ALIMONY AND PAYMENT OF HER ATTORNEY FEES.

POWERS CHARGED IN HIS DIVORCE ACTION THAT SHE WAS HABITUALLY INTOXICATED AND THAT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS SHE CURSED AND ABUSED HIM WITHOUT CAUSE. HE ALSO ALLEGED HER "ACTS OF CRUELTY WERE WILFULLY INFLICTED" AND CAUSED HIM "TO BECOME HIGHLY NERVOUS AND ENDANGERED HIS HEALTH."

MRS. POWERS DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS IN HER PETITION, WHICH WAS FILED IN BALDWIN SUPERIOR COURT THROUGH HER ATTORNEY, ROBERT GREEN OF MILLEDGEVILLE.

THE CASE IS EXPECTED TO BE CALLED FOR TRIAL SOMETIME AFTER THE COURT CONVENES THE SECOND WEEK OF OCTOBER.

THE POWERS HAVE NO CHILDREN. THEY SEPARATED MAY 27, 1962, SEVEN YEARS AFTER THEIR APRIL 2, 1955, MARRIAGE IN NEWNAN, GA. THE CEREMONY CLIMAXED A ROMANCE WHICH BEGAN AT TURNER AIR FORCE BASE, ALBANY, GA., WHERE HE WAS A PILOT AND SHE A CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE.

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